



## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Press Release

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### **In Observance of the U.S. Veterans Day, November 11, 2011** **Ambassador Helen Reed-Rowe**

On Veterans Day, we come together to pay tribute to the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. Americans commemorate the patriots who have risked their lives to preserve the liberty of our Nation, the families who support them, and the heroes no longer with us.

In an unbroken line of valor stretching across more than two centuries, our veterans have charged into harm's way, sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice, to protect the freedoms that have blessed America. Whether Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard, they are our Nation's finest, and they have shown the heights to which individuals can rise when asked and inspired to do so.

Long after leaving the uniform behind, many veterans continue to serve their country as public servants and mentors, parents and community leaders. This is very noticeable in Palau, where the ranks of honored veterans include traditional leaders, members of the OEK, prominent government and business people, professionals, and other leaders in the community.

Our sons and daughters have not protected our shores and citizens for public recognition, fanfare, or parades. They have preserved our way of life with unwavering patriotism and quiet courage, and ours is a debt of honor to care for them and their families. These obligations do not end after their time of service, and we must fulfill our sacred trust to care for our veterans after they rejoin civilian life. The U.S. Embassy in Palau is committed to identifying and assisting all U.S. armed forces veterans in Palau, and to help improve the services they receive. For this reason we have recently requested that all U.S. veterans in Palau, regardless of citizenship, contact the Embassy and register their names and contact information.

We are humbled by the sacrifices rendered by our service members and their families out of the deepest sense of service and love of country. More than fifty veterans of the U.S. armed forces are currently living in Palau, many of whom have seen combat. Since 9/11, five heroic Palauans have made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting against terrorism and for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Veterans Day is a day for remembering and pondering with gratitude the sacrifices of these and all our veterans, and recommit to upholding the enduring principles that both America and Palau stand for, and that many of our veterans have fought and died for.

As President Obama has said, it is not our weapons or our technology that make us the most advanced military in the world; it is the unparalleled spirit, skill, and devotion of our troops. As we honor our veterans with ceremonies on this day, let our actions strengthen the bond between a Nation and her warriors.